## **AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

Please accept amended Claims 25, 32 and 34 as follows:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method for processing multimedia data in a computer system, comprising:

receiving as input a high-level concept describing data to be accessed;

translating the high-level concept into a low-level query by using stored concept

constructs which are defined using features derived from a plurality of application domains; and

transferring the low-level query to one or more search engines to access information

using the low-level query.

storing the concept constructs in a concept library module; storing the features in a feature library module;

storing constraints in a constraint library module; and

21. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 20, further comprising:

storing matching algorithms in a matching algorithm library module.

- 22. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 21, further comprising interfacing the library modules to the application domains.
- 23. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 21, further comprising building a concept construct.

- 24. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 23, wherein the step of building a concept construct comprise combining one or more of the features with zero or more of the stored concept and zero or more of the constraints.
- 25. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in Claim 23, wherein a concept construct is represented using a hierarchical fuzzy graph data tree-structure comprising:

nodes that correspond to child-concepts and a subset of the features; aggregation edges that correspond to parent-child relationships; and association edges <u>between siblings</u> that correspond to inter-sibling constraints.

- 26. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 20, wherein the features are user defined.
- 27. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for processing multimedia data in a computer system, said method steps comprising:

receiving as input a high-level concept describing data to be accessed;

translating the high-level concept into a low-level query by using stored concept

constructs which are defined using features derived from a plurality of application domains; and

transferring the low-level query to one or more search engines to access information

using the low-level query.

28. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in Claim 27, further comprising:

storing the concept constructs in a concept library module;
storing the features in a feature library module;
storing constraints in a constraint library module; and
storing matching algorithms in a matching algorithm library module.

- 29. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in Claim 28, further comprising interfacing the library modules to the application domains.
- 30. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in Claim 28, further comprising building a concept construct.
- 31. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in 30, wherein the step of building a concept construct comprise combining one or more of the features with zero or more of the stored concept and zero or more of the constraints.
- 32. (Currently Amended) A program storage device as defined in Claim 30, wherein a concept construct is represented using a hierarchical fuzzy graph data tree-structure comprising: nodes that correspond to child-concepts and a subset of the features; aggregation edges that correspond to parent-child relationships; and association edges between siblings that correspond to inter-sibling constraints.

- 33. (Previously Presented) A program storage device as defined in Claim 27, wherein the features are user defined.
- 34. (Currently Amended) A system for processing multimedia data in a computer system, comprises:

a concept translation engine that receives a high-level concept describing data to be accessed, translates the high-level concept into a low-level query using a hierarchy of stored concept constructs which are defined using by features derived from a plurality of application domains and constraints among sibling elements in the hierarchy, and transfers the low-level query to one or more search engines to access information using the low-level query; and a concept repository for storing and accessing the concept constructs.

- 35. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 34, wherein the concept repository comprises:
  - a concept library module for storing the concept constructs;
  - a feature library module for storing the features;
  - a constraint library module for storing constraints; and
  - a matching algorithm library module for storing matching algorithms.
- 36. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 35, the concept repository further comprises an application program interface to interface the library modules to the application domains.

- 37. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 34, wherein the translation engine comprises a concept cataloger that builds a concept construct.
- 38. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 34, wherein the translation engine further comprises an interpreter that translates the high level concept.
- 39. (Previously Presented) A system as defined in Claim 34, further comprises a search engine.